

**DRINKING WATER
QUALITY ISSUES FOR
DELTA SOURCE WATERS**

**PERSPECTIVES AND ISSUES
OF CONCERN TO URBAN
WATER AGENCIES**

**DRINKING WATER
QUALITY ISSUES FOR
DELTA SOURCE WATERS**

ISSUE PAPER

Prepared by: California Urban Water Agencies



CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

April 16, 1993

John Amodio
Executive Officer
Bay Delta Oversight Council
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1306-3
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Urban Water Quality Considerations

Dear Mr. Amodio:

We are pleased to participate in your April 16 session on drinking water quality issues, and to review the briefing paper on this topic prepared by Rick Woodard, DWR. The paper provides a good overview of Delta drinking water problems. It conveys clearly why urban water providers who have met most state and federal drinking water standards up to this time are very worried about the cost and feasibility of meeting near-future requirements using Delta water as their source. This problem will likely reach crisis proportions as new standards become mandatory in 1997.

BDOC is now deliberating on statements of Objectives and Evaluation Criteria. We urge the council to include statements on urban water quality. The Objective is simple; it should state that "the quality of water provided to urban water suppliers should ensure continuous compliance with drinking water standards at a reasonable cost." Evaluation Criteria are necessarily more complex, and must provide a basis for measuring how well alternative solutions meet the Objectives. For this purpose, two Criteria are proposed for urban water supplies originating in the Delta:

1. The quality of water provided to urban water suppliers should be such that urban users will have a high degree of assurance that continuous compliance with state and federal drinking water standards will be feasible using proven technologies.
2. The quality of water provided to urban water suppliers should be such that the cost of treatment to comply with drinking water standards should be comparable to the cost of treating water originating from other major surface water sources such as the Sacramento River and the Colorado River.

As BDOC moves through its planning process to consideration of specific alternative solutions, we urge consideration of water quality impacts of a broad and innovative range of solutions. This range needs to include management alternatives, such as removal of major sources of pollutants, and a broad array of physical alternatives.

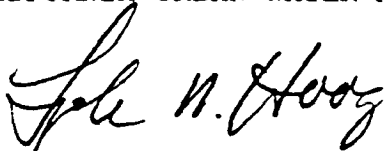
660 J STREET #485, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 916-552-2929 FAX 552-552-2931

Bay Delta Oversight Council
April 16, 1993
Page two

Physical alternatives should not be constrained by existing planning. Alternatives should include, for example, approaches that would physically separate urban and agricultural supplies for quality control purposes; or would utilize large-scale in-Delta storage and offstream storage to capture high quality flood flows; or would transport Delta water to the Friant-Kern service area, releasing high quality Sierra water for export to urban areas. In short, there is a variety of innovative supply concepts which may be attractive under the environmental, technical, and economic circumstances which will now drive California water policy. California Urban Water Agencies has completed work on these topics and has additional work in progress. We will be pleased to contribute to BDOC's work in any helpful way.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER AGENCIES

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lyle N. Hoag". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lyle" being more prominent and the last name "Hoag" following in a similar style.

Lyle N. Hoag
Executive Director

LNH:ccg.706
Enclosure